

Message Text

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71/16

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CU-02 DHA-02 ORM-02

OES-06 COME-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 A-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /071 W
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O P 100900Z AUG 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6170

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-MRN 1566 VICE 1552

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, CH

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE SITUATION UPDATE, AUGUST 10

REF: PEKING 1552

1. MFA MORNING AUGUST 10 NOTIFIED DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN IN PEKING THAT SIX TREMORS OF AT LEAST FIVE MAGNITUDE HAD OCCURRED IN TANGSHAN AREA IN 24 HOURS ENDING 1600 AUGUST 9, INCLUDING TWO MEASURING SIX AND SIX-POINT-TWO MAGNITUDE RESPECTIVELY. (THESE ARE PRE-SUMABLY THE TWO AFTERSHOCKS REPORTED REFTEL) THE NOTIFICATION SAID THE NEW SHOCKS INDICATE AN INTENSIFICATION OF SEISMIC ACTIVITY, WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT A FAIRLY STRONG QUAKE COULD OCCUR IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. IT THEREFORE ASKED THAT ALL EMBASSIES REMAIN ALERT AND CONTINUE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

2. FOREIGNERS TRAVELING IN THE SIAN AREA SINCE THE JULY 28

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TANGSHAN EARTHQUAKE HAVE SEEN MANY POSTERS IN SIAN

AND NEARBY TOWNS WELCOMING THE HEROES OF TANGSHAN. ONE PRC OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY STATED THAT BETWEEN 20,000 AND 40,000 PEOPLE FROM TANGSHAN AND VICINITY WERE BEING EVACUATED TO THE SIAN AREA. TAIYUAN, CAPITAL OF SHANGI PROVINCE, MAY ALSO BE RECEIVING PEOPLE FROM TANGSHAN. AT LEAST THIS IS ONE POSSIBLE INFERENCE FROM FACT THAT SOME FOREIGN STUDENTS HAD A VISIT TO TACHAI PRODUCTION BRIGADE (NEAR TAIYUAN) CANCELLED, AND THE REASON THEY WERE GIVEN WAS THAT TAIYUAN HAD "ALSO BEEN AFFECTED" BY THE QUAKE.

3. ACCORDING TO STORIES THAT APPEAR TO BE WIDESPREAD AMONG CHINESE IN PEKING, ONLY ONE TALL BUILDING WAS LEFT STANDING IN TANGSHAN AFTER THE JULY 28 QUAKE, A NUMBER OF OTHERS PARTLY SANK INTO THE GROUND OWING TO FISSURES OR SUBSIDENCE, AND A TRAIN AND SECTION OF TRACKS DROPPED INTO A COLLAPSED MINE TUNNEL.
GATES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EARTHQUAKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING01566
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760308-0093
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760869/aaaachvy.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PEKING 1552
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EARTHQUAKE SITUATION UPDATE, AUGUST 10
TAGS: TPHY, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006